The Member then said that, as judged by the standard measures prevailing in other taluks than Tovala and Agastisvaram, the tax imposed in those taluks was less than in Nanjinad, and that the defect should be remedied by the cubic contents of the Nanjinad measures.

In regard to tax he suggested that the Nanjinad *kotta* should be calculated at 7 1/7 *paras* and not at 8 *paras* and 6½ *edangalies*, and that an order be issued to that effect. Finally the Member requested that the tax imposed on Sripandaravagai lands, which was very heavy, be not realised in kind.

41. Grievances of agriculturists not benefited by the Kodayar Irrigation Project.

Mr. M. Nilakanta Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented that, after the Kodayar Project works had been completed, the tanks in the *pakuthies* of Midalam, Kizhkulam, Nattalam, Killiyur and the western portion of the Colachel *pakuthi* were not restored, that 2,000 acres of wet lands in those *pakuthies* were suffering from want of water and that there was consequent loss both to the people and the Government. He added that the irrigation officers did not even once visit those localities. If the Pattanam Channel was cut, not only could the existing lands be irrigated, but fresh conversions could be made. He therefore requested that the Pattanam Channel be opened.

President's reply.—Your representations in regard to the Pattanam Channel will be referred to the Chief Engineer.

42. Agriculture.

Mr. H. Anantasubrahmanya Aiyar (Member, Tovala taluk) began by condemning the work of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. In his opinion the department had done nothing during the past several years of its existence to increase the productivity of the State. It was a waste of public money to maintain such a costly department; the department was not doing work in proportion to the large amount of money spent on it; the experimental farms, cattle breeding farms and manure depots were not managed properly; and the ryots remained as ignorant of scientific methods of cultivation as ever.

The Member next criticised the present-day system of education which, according to him, made the students fit only for Government service. The worst of the evils of that system was the adoption of a foreign tongue as the medium of instruction. He advocated the need for a productive system of education as opposed to the present consuming one, so as to enable each student after completing his education to start industries on his own initiative and responsibility and thus earn his livelihood independently. As agriculture was the mainstay of the country the Member thought that vernacular education for about 4 or 5 years coupled with a system of agricultural education in theory and practice would accomplish the object he had in view. He therefore suggested the desirability of opening, in every village or group of villages, elementary schools in which agriculture, spinning and weaving should be taught. He suggested that a small farm and a cattle shed be attached to each such school to give practical training to the students in ploughing, manuring, cattle-breeding, etc. The Member was of opinion that education in those schools must be imparted free of charge. He also suggested the opening of a Central Agricultural College to carry on experiments and research work for the development of agriculture.

The Member then represented that the grant of agricultural loans did not serve the purpose for which they were intended and that the poor ryots could get the benefit of the concession, only if the loans were distributed through non-official agencies, *i. e.*, through village agricultural banks to be opened in every village or group of villages under the management of non-officials with State help.

The Member next spoke about Panchayat Courts and said that those courts should be made responsible for the administration of civil and criminal justice, and for the education, the sanitation, and banking of the village. Though mistakes would necessarily be made in the beginning, the right spirit of working should be introduced and proper men to undertake all the work required of them should be found. The old theory of experts alone being considered fit to do certain kinds of work had

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